

BLOUNT ISLAND PROCUREMENT

The Marine Corps will complete the acquisition of the Blount Island facility in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2004. Upon ownership transfer to the Marine Corps, Blount Island Command becomes responsible for the stewardship of the land, buildings, and environment. To ensure a smooth transition, efforts are in progress to establish facility management processes for base operating support and services, capital improvements, facilities sustainment and restoration, and anti-terrorism force protection.

In addition, an encroachment mitigation plan will be developed to monitor and contain internal and external development threats to Blount Island's long-term mission capability. All proposed land use will be consistent with the Maritime Prepositioning Force mission as amplified in the integrated Blount Island Business Plan and 2004 Master Plan. Joint operations and exercises will be encouraged, and priority consideration will be given to expansion opportunities for military and federal use. On a case-by-case basis, potential short-term leasing may also be considered in conjunction with MPF and federal uses.

Our goal is to continue to sustain MPF operations and also expand the strategic value of Blount Island as it continues to play a vital role in our national defense.

